1979

Depot Town Association Inc.
46½ E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

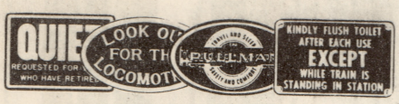
Next regular meeting:
Thursday, 17 May, 7:30pm
Artrain Building
52 E. Cross Street

depot town

DEPOT TOWN'S HISTORIC PRESERvationists have not often supported knocking down old buildings, but Diane Schwartzenberger of the Citizens for Better Schools Committee will make a short presentation at DTA's May 17th meeting about the proposed ½ mill sxhool tax increase for construction of a new Adams School building. The school election is June 11th.

LOANS AND GRANTS AVAILABLE to Depot Town residents and property owners will be explained by Richard Wood from the Community Development Department at the May 17th D.T.A. meeting.

THE CHALLENGES OF HISTORIC PROPERTY OWNERSHIP...will be the topic of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation at its Tuesday, May 15th meeting. Jane Bird, president of the Foundation, and Jack Harris, a member of the Historic District Commission, will speak at 8:00pm at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Emmet and Washington.



FIFTY CITY ORGANIZATIONS have asked for booth space in Depot Town during the August 24,25, 26 (Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival". An equal number of visiting artists have also sought Depot Town space. Mark your calendar. We're to be hosts of an enormous event.

READY FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT!!!

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WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD.....

AFter the last month's activity, DTA officers can easily appreciate Billy Turner's frustration over trying to obtain the MCRR depot for conversion into a restaurant.

The DTA, in conjunction with the local Jay Cees, hoped to raise funds to restore and protect that derelict building from certain decay -- by sponsoring group excursion tours via AMTRAK to Detroit's slick, new Renaissance Center. Sure thing, said Amtrak's sales office -- until we sold 280 spaces for the April 21 trip.

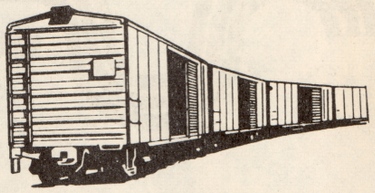
The hour-late train took on only 70 passengers (no seats since Chicago, however) and told us to put 100 on board for May 12 and another 100 on May 19. Ypsilantians easily regrouped and were subsequently re-cancelled by another Amtrak office a few days later.

Only Frank Leimbach's clout with Amtrak's Washington D.C. offices got us (a promise) on board again. Dozens of phone calls later, we wonder if this is any way to run a railroad.

At this writing we anticipate full cooperation from the bureaucrats.

FROM AMTRAK'S 1978 ANNUAL REPORT:

- Revenues of $313 million, up $2 million from 1977.
- Expenses of $890 million, up $48 million from 1977.
- An operating loss of $581 million, compared to $536 million in 1977.
- Assets of $1.3 billion -- primarily power equipment, and the Northeast Corridor trackage and facilities.
- Route mileage stayed the same (26,000), but stations served increased from 524 to 543.
- Train miles decreased slightly, from 32.97 million to 32.37 million.
- Ridership for the year was down slightly, from 19.2 million to 18.9; passenger miles declined from 4.33 billion to 4.03 billion.
- The car fleet shrunk from 2,048 to 1,987; the out-of-service rate remained about constant at 24%, and the average age of the fleet was 20.5 years.
- Locomotives decreased from 330 to 320, and the bad order ratio dropped slightly, to 18.8%
- Slow orders (for track) were the greatest single cause of delay: 25:6%.
- Excluding the Northeast Corridor Improvement Program, only $130 million in capital was available for Amtrak in 1978.



FARMERS' MARKET NEARER?
The City is about to finalize negotiations with CONRAIL for the purchase of the freight house (across the tracks from the depot.) This seems to be one of the last formalities before actual site development for the long-planned Market can begin. Commission delegates Mary Liskow and Gerry Meadows hope to see the Market open in July.

DTA HAD REQUESTS for more than 780 train tickets. Sorry, but the last 500 will have to wait until next time. Should we?

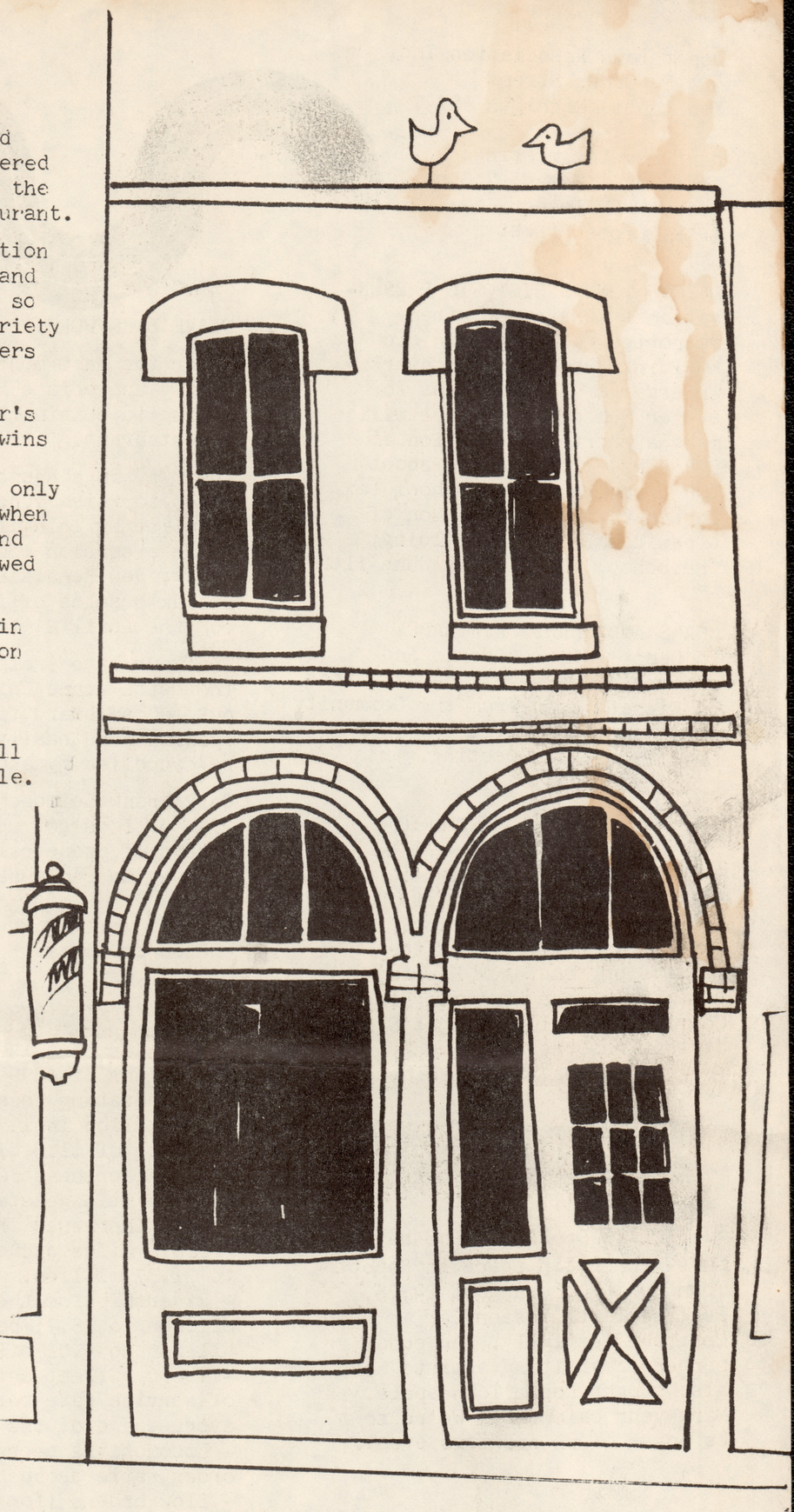
Depot Town's "Golden Arches" are definitely not a fast-food chain's logo, but newly uncovered architectural treasures above the windows of the Old Town Restaurant.

No doubt their Greek appreciation for classical style led John and Shirley Kornilakis to restore so faithfully what was once a variety store facade run by twin sisters for mary years.

The other half was then Turner's Restaurant. Turner and the twins conspired to cover the arches (and more) with fake stone -- only they had to pay for it twice when the contractor skipped town and the lumber company bill followed his exit.

Even more surprises await us in the district as more renovation projects are planned by our neighbors this season.

Good job, Old Town. We are all encouraged by your good example.



DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY
17 MAY 7:30pm

ARTRAIN BUILDING
52 E. CROSS

depot town

ASSOCIATION INC.
46 ½ E. CROSS STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197